



Docket No. 2788

3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: R by et al.  
Serial No.: 09/964,901 Examiner: Paul A. Roberts  
Filed: September 27, 2001 Art Unit: 3731  
For: Siliconized Surgical Needles and Method for Their  
Manufacture

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Group Art Unit: 3731

For: Siliconized Surgical Needles and Method for Their Manufacture

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2003 in connection with the above referenced application, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants elect the claims of group I, claims 1-15. The remaining claims are withdrawn from consideration. The remaining claims are withdrawn from consideration. These claims, however, are subject to reinstatement in the event the requirement for restriction is withdrawn or overruled.

Despite the provisional election, applicants traverse the restriction requirement. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should reconsider the restriction requirement in view of the fact that the separate classification of the subject matter under the classification system of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is not conclusive proof of divisibility and further that under M.P.E.P. §803 the entire application must be examined as a whole when there would not be a serious burden on the Examiner if

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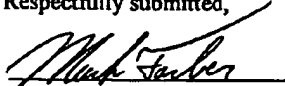
restriction were not required. The fields of search are believed to be coextensive for the three groups identified by the Examiner.

The Examiner has required an election of species for the coating of group III. The election of group I renders this requirement moot. Therefore, no such election has been made and this response is considered complete.

Date:

August 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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